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LOUISIANA Conservationist

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

DECEMBER
1961

Vol. 13 No. 12

December, 1961

Conservation Pledge

I give my
pledge as an American
to save and faithfully to
defend from waste the
natural resources of
my country—its soil
and minerals, its
forests, waters,
and wildlife

Published monthly except May-June, July and August [illegible] in the interest of conservation by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, Wild Life & Fisheries Building, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, La.

Front Cover—

One of the heritages of the American way of life, as familiar as apple pie, is the traditional giving of a gun to a youth at Christmas time. In addition to giving a youngster a gun as soon as he is old enough to respect it and use it rightly, the cherished present fosters the inbred desire of American youth to hunt and to learn more about wildlife and natural resources. Introducing a youth to hunting and all of the kindred outdoor sports that follow opens a new horizon to youth and is a vital step toward enjoyment of the outdoors and the preservation of wildlife resources.

Cover Art by Noel Jeffries

LOUISIANA Conservationist

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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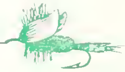

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EDITORIAL

SO OFTEN AS WE GO along in life, our thoughts wander back to those things we could, or should, have done. Many of us have missed real opportunities of joyful reward by neglecting to go into the out-of-doors and take a youngster—or several youngsters—with us.

I have noted with interest the emphasis that several of our outdoor writers have placed on this. Hurley Campbell of Baton Rouge seldom ends his column without admonishing all "to take a boy fishing . . . or hunting with you . . ." as the season may apply.

Recently McFadden Duffy wrote the following in his Times-Picayune column. Because it tells a good story, with a message for all of us—it is repeated in its entirety.

"There's only one way that a hunter can relive the excitement of his first combination camping-hunting trip. That's through the eyes of a boy. Just watching his face, hearing him talk and seeing the flickering glow of firelight on his face at night when the owls are hooting and the woods have become quiet is an experience that is hard to put down on paper.

"You can load a boy into a car and take him hunting, getting to the spot where you plan to hunt during the silent, dark pre-dawn hours. Then, there's always someone who has a camp or a rural house, or a farm house, where you can bed him down to wait for dawn and the hunt. It's fun and wholesome; but it just isn't the real thing.

"We wanted Bill Duffy to have the real thing and being 8 years old is long enough to wait. He had a taste of camping and hunting squirrels over the week end that he will never forget. In years to come; the places will be more remote. Probably the quarry will be bigger game; but the wood smoke will be the same, the dancing flames will be the same, and the near-distant sounds in the night will be similar.

L. D. YOUNG, JR.
Director

"Little wonder that he's still talking about it. Distant places and bigger game will lure him far afield in the years ahead. That's for the future. We'd like to talk about the present; how it was, and how it came about.

"First, we would like to express sincere thanks to George Connell. When the idea of taking a boy on an opening day camping-squirrel hunting trip jelled, we didn't have to think twice about who to call.

"George Connell is one of the finest hunters we have ever met. He's kindly, soft spoken, a born hunter who can read signs and knows game; and he knew what this writer had in mind when he called.

"There's probably a lot of water that has flowed through the creeks on his land since this writer last visited there; but Connell hadn't changed. There was coffee warm on the stove when we arrived, and a bowl of cookies on the kitchen table for the boy.

"The sun was dipping down in the west by the time we followed Connell's jeep to a camping spot he had in mind. The boy had spent his time at the house looking over a beautiful black bear skin, off a critter that Connell had bagged some-

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J. B. Kidd, leader of the squirrel study project on Thistlewaite Game Management Area, is shown carefully removing a metal ear tag from a fox squirrel that had been live trapped and tagged prior to the 1961 controlled hunt on the area. Indications are that the tag will be between 15 and 20 per cent.

SQUIRRELS for TOMORROW!

McFadden Duffy

J. B. Kidd, project leader, is shown with state biologist Larry Soileau, recording data on a squirrel that has been trapped, tagged and released. The information obtained from the recovery of tags during the hunting season on the Game Management Area is a vital key to management.

THE SUPERVISOR of District 6 of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, J. B. Kidd of Opelousas, beamed much in the fashion of the storied Captain Kidd as he clipped the ear and tag from a big fox squirrel.

There, at the check station on Thistlewaite Game Management Area in St. Landry Parish, he was checking out the last hunter just before noon on October 22.

The 11,280-acre Game Management Area, leased to the State of Louisiana for a period of 20 years starting in 1950, had been the location of an intensive squirrel-tagging and research project.

The russet coloring of the fox squirrel and the silvery brightness of the tiny numbered ear tag wasn't the sort of gold or silver that the celebrated pirate would have expressed delight over; but the beaming smile on the face of the game management biologist was just as satisfying.

As he clipped the tagged ear and returned the squirrel to the hunter, Kidd was doing a lot of hurried mathematics which would later be checked out at the Commission's District Office.

Hunting by permit had been allowed in the mornings on Thistlewaite GMA from October 7 through October 22. That last squirrel hunter checking out at the permit station marked the close of both squirrel and rabbit hunting until next fall.

A quick check of the records back at the District Office revealed that 1819 squirrel hunters, stalking the fine stand of timber on Thistlewaite during the 16 mornings squirrel hunting had been allowed, bagged 4376 squirrels for an average of 2.4 squirrels per hunter effort.

The 1961 bag was 3/10's of a per cent lower than in 1960, but records revealed that there were less hunters using the area this year than last. In 1960, there were 2099 hunters, who bagged an average of 2.7 per hunter effort, or 5776 squirrels.

Further examination revealed that the 1961 bag of 4376 squirrels averaged 2.4 per hunter effort. This average was equal to 1959, however, there were 2125 hunts made during 1959 to obtain that average.

In 1958, there were 2860 hunter efforts but the bag averaged 1.9 per hunter effort.

This clearly indicated that although there were 1041 more hunter efforts in 1958, the bag average in 1961 was higher with less hunter participation.

The story behind the figures given is one of public sentiment, continual research, and the provision of hunting under soundly managed plans.

When Thistlewaite's acres were first leased, provisions of the lease provided that the area would be a refuge. Several years ago, the stipulations were changed so that the area became a game management one. This meant that limited hunting during a fixed season would be allowed and supervised by Commission personnel.

Popular opinion was that opening of the Thistlewaite GMA would result in a heavy influx of

J. B. Kidd, wildlife management biologist and squirrel study leader, is shown demonstrating the proper method of removing trapped squirrels from tree-side traps for tagging purposes. Tiny, numbered metal tags are clamped to the ears of live-trapped squirrels.

hunters and prove detrimental to the squirrel population.

Careful records kept by District Supervisor Kidd during the four years of hunting by permit in the tract which is now one of the State's GMA's have brought to light several factors in the management of squirrel populations which refute early popular opinion.

Earlier work done in Grant-Rapides Game Management Area marked the first concerted effort to live-trap squirrels and clamp small ear tags on them. Records for this project over a period of three years gave a consistent annual return of approximately 15 per cent, indicative that annual bag results on the area were static.

Hunting in the Game Management Areas is allowed by permit only. Hunters must enter the area by access roads where they temporarily surrender their basic hunting licenses for permits to hunt. After the hunt is over, they must check out at the same permit stations where bags are examined for necessary management records.

Tagging of squirrels was resumed this year on Thistlewaite and Commission personnel in District 6 anticipate that the tag return over a period of time will average about the same as it did in the Grant-Rapides GMA project.

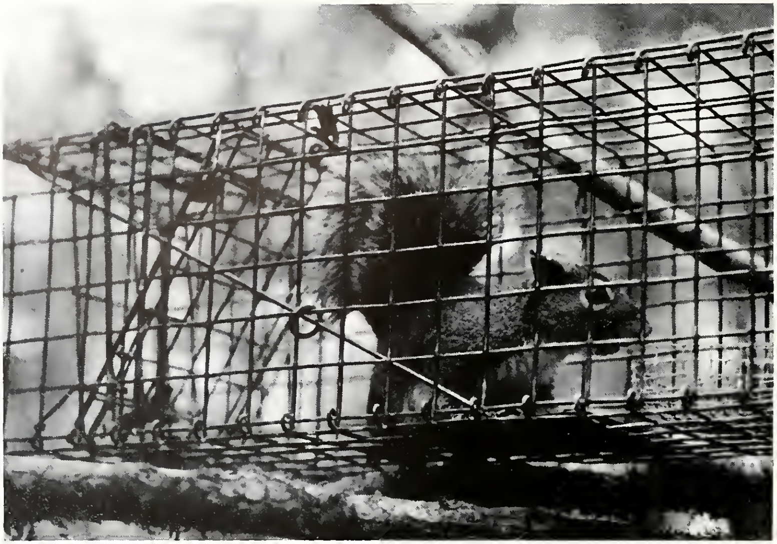
One factor in evaluating the return of tagged squirrels from Thistlewaite GMA encountered during the October season that must be taken into consideration is that hunters using the area were able to locate trees from which squirrels had been trapped. This was possible from the blaze markings on the trees selected earlier by field workers for the trapping, tagging and releasing program. This led to concentrated hunting efforts around the trees so marked and might possibly show up in a higher percentage of tagged squirrels taken during the 1961 squirrel hunting season on the management area.

"Gun pressure and the resultant bagging of squirrels is not the prime determining factor in estimating the population of squirrels in a given area," according to Kidd.

"The populations seem to increase and level off in a cyclic manner," he said, "and this cycle is governed in many respects by the abundance of mast, or a shortage of mast. When food is plentiful, the reproduction capacity of squirrels is higher; however, this does not necessarily reflect itself in the actual kill."

He cited the past four years of controlled squirrel hunting on Thistlewaite as an example.

"In 1958, Commission records show that a total



Bright-eyed and bushytailed, this is one of the gray squirrels trapped on Thistlewaite Game Management Area. Traps are placed upon triangle frames extended about six to ten feet from the ground. Baited with pecans, acorns or other tree nuts, foraging squirrels are trapped unharmed.

of 2860 hunts were made on the area. The known bag consisted of 5589 squirrels, resulting in an average of 1.9 per hunter effort."

This was the first season that it had been hunted in 8 years and there were many people who believed that the total squirrel population on Thistlewaite would be greatly reduced, he said.

The number of hunters in that year was greater than those in the following years of 1959, 1960, and 1961. On the other hand, the actual bag average jumped from the average bag per hunter effort of 1958 (the year when most hunters used the area thus far) to a much higher percentage in 1959, 1960 and 1961.

This bag remained higher than the average of 1958 even though there was a progressive drop in the number of hunters applying for permit each year after the management area was opened.

Kidd explains this in a way that is easy to understand. When the area was first opened to squirrel hunting in 1958, there were many hunters who turned out at the permit station, denouncing but anxious to participate in what they believed would be a virtual slaughter of the squirrel population on the area. The influx of hunters to the permit station included many hunters who came from relatively great distances, and young hunters who could not be regarded as experienced squirrel hunters.

The increase in the bag returns during the three following seasons, including the 1961 controlled season, were made by considerably fewer hunters who turned out in 1958.

Although this can be construed to mean that more skillful hunters are taking advantage in the managed hunting on Thistlewaite, the figures are also indicative that the cyclic factor is also a determining one and that the population has built up even under gunning pressure.

It is believed by the fish and game division of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission that an excellent mast condition existing in the game management area this year has increased the squirrel population to its peak.

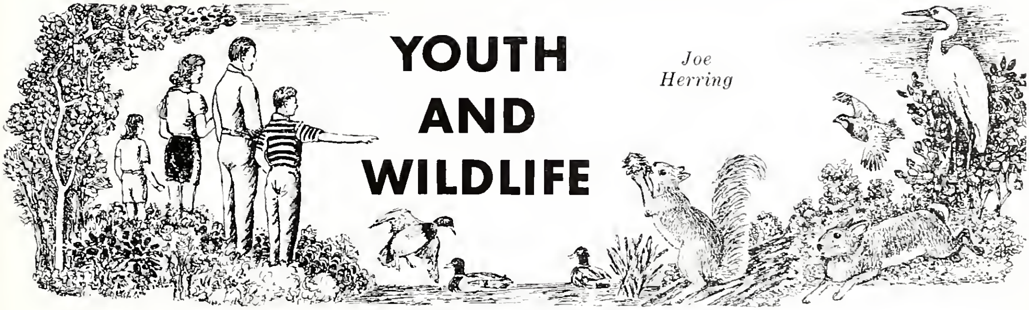
Even if there is a fall off in mast during 1962, it is logical to assume that decreased gunning pressure evidenced during the past four seasons will assure a constant and huntable supply of squirrels.

As the tagging operations are intensified, and steps are taken to disperse hunting over the entire area rather than in the plainly marked trapping areas, it is expected that tag returns will serve as a more accurate index of the total population. It is also expected that the average return of tags from squirrels shot in the Thistlewaite area will run around 15 per cent.

Kidd is quick to point out that in addition to the apparent cycle of normal-to-peak squirrel populations on Thistlewaite and other game management areas, weather conditions also play a role in the overall hunter success records. Blustery weather during the controlled hunting periods on Game Management Areas can definitely cut down on hunter success and the average bag content per hunter effort.

There are many factors which must be taken into consideration in determining the carrying capacity of woodlands, the rate of harvestable squirrel populations, the proportion of squirrels that are carried over to the next year, and the hunting potential from year to year.

This is the sort of information that is being collected from management operations on Thistlewaite Game Management Area and analyzed over a period of years. Findings during the projected years of the now intensified survey should prove of great assistance to wildlife management personnel in fixing of the statewide seasons and bag limits. ✠



YOUTH AND WILDLIFE

Joe Herring

This month Joseph C. Glorioso, Assistant Supervisor of Science with the Louisiana State Department of Education discusses the Marine Resources Workshop.

Why don't we have more teachers and administrators excited about this important and vital area of conservation and resource-use education? The problems which accompany "population explosion," economic expansion, rising living expectations, international economic competition, interstate competition, pollution, and scientific acceleration have tremendous implications for conservation of Louisiana's marine resources and compel adult citizens to place a new emphasis on this phase of education. The youth of Louisiana need to know and must be prepared, as responsible citizens of tomorrow, to come to grips with the problems.

To develop some means to attack the problems, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and the Louisiana Department of Education conducted two summer workshops for science teachers at the Grand Terre Biological Laboratory. Under the guidance of consultants from the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, Louisiana State University, and the State Department of Education, science teachers identified pertinent problems inherent in the conservation and wise use of renewable, biological resources of the Gulf coast of Louisiana. They selected broad problems and the corresponding specific problems and prepared materials to be included in a resource unit for junior high school and senior high school science classes.

The resource unit for students was designed, using problem-solving and action-taking experiences, to vitalize this phase of conservation and resource-use education. During field trips and laboratory situations, students will tackle such problems as caring for and developing Louisiana's living marine resources, interdependency of the marine resources, and particular characteristics of separate resources, processes and activities necessary to market the separate resources, investments costs and returns in dealing with marine resources, research potentials, and appreciation of need for wise management and consumption.

Mrs. Agnes Miller, Miss Myrta Bogan and Miss Clovis Pullig view, through the microscope, some of the many organisms found on famous Barataria Bay oyster reefs.

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Teachers and pupils usually need to get an overall view of their wildlife activities in order to understand that natural resources are all interrelated. Such reviews are most informative in workshops.

WILDLIFE INSTRUCTORS' ACTIVITIES

Wildlife Instructors were most active during August and September presenting programs to civic, garden and wildlife clubs. Programs on the wildlife resources of Louisiana were presented to 62 clubs with an attendance of 2,583.

During this period Instructors were preparing and constructing wildlife displays for use at the various fairs throughout the state.

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READ WITH ME

The *How and Why Wonder Books* published by Grosset and Dunlap, New York, are informative for the nature enthusiasts. The *How and Why Wonder Books* cover such subjects as subjects as reptiles, insects, shells, birds, minerals, microscope and many others. Each subject is a book of its own and is written in such a manner that elementary and high school students alike will find enjoyment and knowledge. Books are reasonably priced at .50 for paper backs and $1.00 for hard backs, found at most book stores.

Students and teachers of Louisiana schools get an excellent opportunity to study together at the modern marine research laboratory located on historic Grand Terre adjacent to the fishing village of Grand Isle.

The rapidity with which water hyacinths increase, both by seed from the flowers, and by bulblike extensions that develop into full grown plants, have literally blanketed many of Louisiana's streams and lakes. They create a navigational hazard for boat operators and a solid blanket of hyacinths and other undesirable vegetation ruin both sport and commercial fishing. This scene is before eradication operations have begun.

Progress Report:

Aquatic Vegetation Control

PART ONE

"Field Conditions and Field Operations"

W. S. Hardcastle

Editor note:—Because of the increased interest in noxious weeds that plague some of Louisiana's best fishing and boating waters, the LOUISIANA CONSERVATIONIST has asked Dr. Hardcastle, aquatic vegetation biologist, to bring our readers up to date on the progress being made to rid our waters of these pesty weeds. This article is part one of a two part series by Dr. Hardcastle, who resigned his position with the commission on Oct. 31 to accept a research and teaching assignment at the University of Georgia.

DURING RECENT YEARS, there have been several major changes in the aquatic vegetation control program brought about by changes in administration, chemical capabilities, and normal work progress.

Among these have been the establishment, with the U. S. Corps of Engineers, of a Federal-State Aquatic Weed Control Program; the shift of several of the major lakes of the state from a primary operational phase where concentrated effort had been directed toward bringing water hyacinth under control, to a maintenance phase in which these lakes are kept under surveillance and spot retreatment is made when necessary.

The scope of the program has been broadened to include the spraying of alligator weed, primarily to check its spread until more satisfactory control methods can be developed, and other emergent weed species such as water lotus and white water lily.

Research results point toward the possibility of control, at least on limited areas, of many of the submerged weed plants, those generally lumped together by the fisherman and called "moss".

Since the emphasis of the overall program is shifting in response to these factors, it might be well to briefly review the conditions in the field which set up these various weed problems,

Here is a view of a stream that has been cleared of hyacinths and other undesirable aquatic vegetation. Results with airplane application in the early phases of eradication proved unsuited to the work. At present, the application of 2-4-D (2-4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid) formulations are presently applied by use of boats and pumping equipment. Light pumping units, coupled with powered skiffs have proved much more efficient in killing off undesirable aquatics.

and the types of water in the state and how they contribute to the weed infestations being combatted by the Aquatic Vegetation Control Section.

Weed problems are generally caused by changes in the pattern of land and water usage, most of them occurring within the lifetime of the active hunters and fishermen of today. These changes are often relatively slow in showing in any particular body of water, and their actual cause may be several miles removed from the actual trouble sites. Such structures as ring levees, diversion canals and dams, as well as changes in agricultural and forest practices on the watersheds, all bring about changes in the streams and lakes adjacent to their general areas. Many times the changes serve to set up conditions which favor weed growth.

One of the most certain methods of encouraging weed growth is to slow down water. When water is stabilized by the construction of dams or ring levees it tends to clear up and since aquatic weeds need sunlight just as cotton, corn, or timber does, this clearing favors their growth. Stabilization also favors weed growth by reducing the inflow of new water which generally brings in nutrients which favor the planktonic plants which, in turn, compete with the weed plants for sunlight; as these planktonic plants are reduced due to reduced fertility in stable water, the weeds are again favored.

If the hunter and fisherman will think back to the time that his favorite lake or stream was 'in real good shape' and review the things that have happened in and around the area since that time, it is probable that he will remember several things that have happened to help the water get into its present condition, i.e., things such as, levees and canals near Marksville, levees in the Ferriday area, changed dam heights on Lake Bistineau, and the many canals along the coastal waterways.

The general types of water in the state, particularly as far as their weed problems are concerned, generally follow rather clear out geographical areas. The upland areas of the state are generally low in fertility and typically have a mixed pine-hardwood cover. The flow streams in these areas are generally relatively fast moving and subject to drastic fluctuations in their discharge rates. Such streams as the Red, Ouachita, Tensas-Black, Boeuf, Little, Pearl, Tangipahoa, and Amite Rivers and Bayous Bodcau, Dorcheat, D'Arbonne, Bartholomew, and Mason in this group seldom, if ever, carry enough weeds to be bothersome.

It is, however, in this same area that some of the most troublesome lakes and impoundments are found, particularly in the northern part of the state. These waters, typified by Caddo, Bistineau, Wallace, Clear-Saline-Black, Iatt, Chicot, Anacoco, Edwards and Smithport, Black Bayou (Caddo Parish) and Cocodrie (Rapides Parish) Lakes are among the most heavily infested in the state.

They have several common conditions, however the most important, again, is their infertile watershed areas and stable water conditions. These lakes as a whole, have representatives of almost all the troublesome aquatic weeds found in the state. Many of them are, or have been in the past, heavily infested with water hyacinth, alligator weed, water lily, and a number of the submergent aquatics that go to make up the "mosses". It is here that some of the major effort, both in field control effort and in research studies, has been directed. It is probable that at best, only partial control of submergent species will be obtained in these lakes for a number of years, although the water hyacinth control and the control of several other emergent species such as water primrose and water lotus has been excellent.

In this same geographical area there are a number of oxbows or old river lakes such as Cane River, and Raccourci Lakes, and Lakes Providence, Bruin, St. John, St. Joseph, Concordia, and False River. These lakes are generally more fertile than the upland impoundments, a direct reflection of the relative fertility of their water sheds, and they are, at least in some cases, larger and more influenced by wind and wave action, or deeper than the impoundments, and for these reasons, less infested by surface or submerged weeds. These lakes, however, tend to become infested with many of the more troublesome weed species, especially when they are stabilized by the construction of ring levees or diversion canals within their old water systems, or where they are denied the influx of fresh water from their parent streams.

Backwater areas, such as the Spring Bayou complex and the Atchafalaya Basin, are similar in some respects to the oxbows in that they are generally fertile and are subject to an influx of fresh water from the rising waters of major streams. These areas tend to remain clear of submergent aquatics for at least the spring and early summer months, but as the waters stabilize with the drop in the major streams and the clearing which follows this stabilization, they become badly infested during the summer and fall.

If, as in the case of Spring Bayou, this stabilization is intensified by man-made construction, the weed problem reflects directly the extent of change in the natural pattern by appearing progressively earlier in the year until the conditions approach that found in the upland impoundments. Since they are relatively fertile these backwater areas tend to be more heavily infested with some of the bothersome surface aquatics such as water hyacinth and duckweed, and, as they clear, with filamentous algae.

The slower moving streams in the coastal areas such as the lower Pearl, Tchefuncte, Tickfaw-Ponchatoula, Blind, Vermillion, Mermentau, and Calcasieu Rivers and Bayous Teche and Lafourche because of the lack of scouring and less drastic differences in levels, as well as the generally warmer climate with longer growing seasons, tend to become much more heavily infested with aquatics, particularly the submergents, than do the flowing streams in the upland areas.

These streams pose a particularly difficult problem when attempts are made to devise control measures for the submergent species because the water movement tends to limit exposure time of a given plant to a chemical as well as increasing the dilution which would follow point applications in these streams.

This scene at Wallace Lake clearly shows how thick mats of undesirable aquatics can cut off navigation. If unattended, they reproduce rapidly and build an almost solid mass. This photograph was made to show how drifting, or wind blown, masses of hyacinths and mingled aquatics have formed an inpenetrative barrier along the railroad trestle crossing the lake.

The lakes in the coastal areas are essentially stable lakes and as such are subject to heavy infestation. Here the pattern is set, at least to some extent, by the occurrence of salt water intrusion; if this occurs, lakes such as Lakes Martin, Verret, Penchant, Theriot, Decade, Des Allemands, Arthur, and Spanish Lake are subject to infestation by both surface and submergent aquatics, generally severe in most cases.

The problem of control in the case of the submergent species in lakes of this type is made more difficult because there is generally a muck bottom of from a few to many feet present which interferes with the use of granular herbicides for the control of rooted submergents.

As originally developed, the over-all plan of the water hyacinth control program was geared generally, to begin at the northern boundaries of the state and progress southward to leave the waters of the lake in such a condition that this plant would no longer be troublesome. The funds for field control were appropriated for the control of this particular plant, and other plants which were controlled incidentally to the spraying of the water hyacinths were considered to be lagniappe. Based on this general philosophy, lakes such as Bistineau and Wallace and Bayou DeSiard and adjacent waters were some of the original areas of application.

Results with airplane application in the early phases of the program proved this method to be unusable because of the hazards inherent to this method of application of the 2,4-D (2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid) formulations available at that time. Additionally, much of the area subsequently attacked for hyacinth control was such that the economics of airplane application were questionable, and as a consequence, the field control program was geared to the use of boats and pumping equipment. The original heavy, high pressure pumps were subsequently replaced by

(Continued on Page 23)

With Our Commissioners

In this issue, John Cutrone, member of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission from Morgan City, writes about wildlife in the area which he knows so well. A keen observer and a man who has had more than two decades of close ossociation with, and participation in, the fur industry of Louisiana, Cutrone writes from experience and with foresight. We hope that you will enjoy this sixth in a series of articles by our commissioners and that it will give you a true appreciation of the changing wildlife pattern in Lauisiana.

John Cutrone

I WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY to write freely about wildlife in the area in which I have been vitally interested for the past 25 years. During those years, I have seen many gradual changes in the wildlife abundance of several coastal parishes; and I have observed the changes that have been brought about by new industry, newly-introduced farming practices, and the event of the discovery and exploitation of oil and gas resources.

Before expressing my personal opinions on wildlife resources—past, present and future—I would like to say that it is gratifying to me to observe that conservation education has paid off in benefits to the people of this general area. Much credit is due to public officials, enforcement agencies, and the general public.

It is plain that our people have learned that wildlife is a renewable resource only when it is properly managed and respected.

It is with no spirit of defeatism that I call the attention of readers of this magazine to the fact that the fur industry in Louisiana is a "sick" industry. There are no miracle drugs that can cure this sickness because it stems from many causes—some of them highly beneficial to the progress of man and brought about by that progress.

The story of the fur industry in Louisiana is typical of other industries elsewhere. They rose to a high peak and then leveled off. The trappers of a quarter century ago participated in a fur boom. They lived in villages on marshland where they trapped. They were family groups, and the trade of trapping was as deeply inbred in them as any other skilled trade. They reaped a bountiful harvest and lived well.

There were instances when they leased trapping lands year after year for sums almost equal to the sale price of the land they roamed and trapped upon. Only a few bought land. Today, approximately 25 per cent of the land they lived upon and trapped upon has been put to other use.

Today, the muskrat trappers live in town, and trapping upon the remaining 75 per cent of the original muskrat lands is a seasonal occupation. It is one that must be supplemented by other occupational pursuits.

I sincerely believe that while trapping will continue to play an important part in the economic well-being of Louisiana, it will become more and more of a sideline for those who engage in it.

There are some prime reasons for this prediction. First, the fur industry has its ups and downs due to changes in fortune and in fashions. The demand for fur is fickle and consequently based upon quality. The fur industry as a whole is highly competitive and dominated by New York markets.

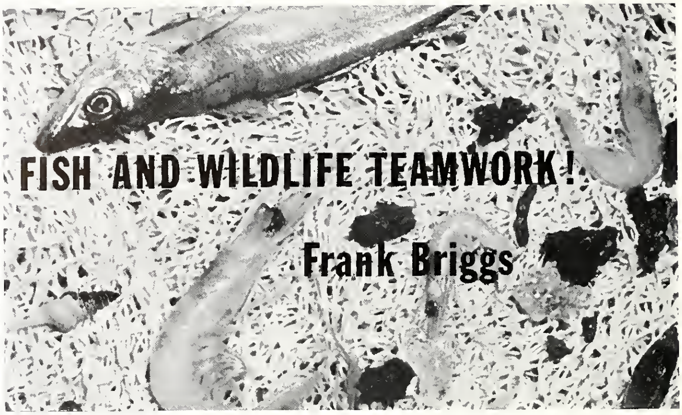
In Louisiana, fur trappers have depended too greatly upon muskrat production. It is time for our skilled trappers to understand that muskrats have been reduced in numbers, and that the nutria which is virtually taking over the marshland represents a valuable asset to trappers.

In this respect, I mean nutria flesh and not nutria pelts. The flesh of this marshland alien is highly desirable in frozen form for food on northern mink ranches; so is quick-frozen "trash" fish.

Other occupations that should receive consideration in the years ahead are increased production of crawfish which find ready market; taking of catfish which could be highly developed in the Pierre Part—Belle River areas; full exploitation of turtle trapping and marketing; and the capture of bullfrogs for market.

Moss gathering and drying is also a potential sideline source of income in St. Mary, Iberia, and other parishes. All these are not necessarily full-time occupations as fur trapping has been in the past few decades, but they represent side occupations that could raise the level of income of the people who were once entirely dependent upon fur.

There is little doubt in my mind that we have gone through the initial phase of a transitory period; but generalized harvesting of wildlife resources, instead of specialization, may be the answer to economic ills that result from both natural or man-made causes. ✠



FISH AND WILDLIFE TEAMWORK!

Frank Briggs

THERE IS NO BETTER WAY to begin a discussion of what we must do to have a strong healthy Gulf States fishing industry than to remind you of our basic policy established by President Kennedy in his Natural Resources message last February.

"The sea around us represents one of our most important but least understood and almost wholly undeveloped areas for extending our resource base. Salt and fresh water fisheries are among our most important but far from fully developed reservoirs of protein foods. At present levels of use, this country alone will need an additional 3 billion pounds of fish and shellfish annually by 1980, and many other countries with large-scale protein deficiency can be greatly helped by more extensive use of marine foodstuffs. But all this will require increased efforts, under Federal leadership, for rehabilitation of depleted stocks through biological research, development of methods for passing fish over dams, and control of pollution."

In addition to this general mandate, President Kennedy has continued the personal interest in your problems that was exemplified when he placed his name on the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act which has been so important in supplying funds for research and other activities beneficial to the commercial fishing industry.

Our basic problem is easy to define. While the Space Age and its problems of tomorrow have penetrated American thought and action today, President Kennedy believed it was necessary to remind all of us that our renewable resources of fish and wildlife require special attention in the immediate future if we are to meet our obligations for tomorrow.

For years we have recklessly tampered with these resources. As we become more crowded we drain the land; we *fill* and *burn* and *plow* and *build*.

Waters are polluted or used in ways that render them unsuitable for fish or waterfowl.

Homes for fish and wildlife become fewer, year by year.

The commercial fisheries of our fresh waters have been seriously depleted.

Opportunities for healthful recreation are unable to keep pace with the rapid increase of population.

In addition to the recreational needs of our fast-growing Nation, there will be new food requirements. Now, just as since the days of the early settlers, the seas provide important food and industrial products.

As the land becomes more fully utilized we will turn to the sea for more and more of the things we must have to bolster the standard of living of a crowded America.

A half million people earn their livelihood from these resources.

The Department of Interior has grave responsibilities for all these renewable resources of the land and the sea. As surely as other Government agencies must plan and act for the future of defense, of education, of agriculture, of industry, and of the much-discussed Outer Space, so the Department of Interior *must* prepare *now* to meet its obligations for tomorrow.

But I want to stress to you that in planning, developing, and conducting tomorrow's fish and wildlife programs, the responsibilities of the Federal Government in wildlife conservation are only a part of the whole story. The Federal Government, the States, the private agencies, fishermen, hunters, and the many people who are just interested in fish and wildlife have one common responsibility. And that is to maintain our fish and wildlife resources in the healthiest, most productive condition possible. To do this, we must move together toward preservation of these resources with all the tools we can command. We must also jointly devise new management methods to produce more fish—both fresh and salt water—and more game from less area than we have today.

There is also the responsibility to operate in full partnership.

The States look to the Federal Government for

An address by the Honorable Frank Briggs, Assistant Secretary U.S. Department of the Interior. Mr. Briggs spoke to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission group in New Orleans recently.

"Our Renewable Resources Of Fish And Wildlife Require Special Attention In The Immediate Future If We Are To Meet Our Obligations For Tomorrow."

—*John F. Kennedy, President, United States of America*

Coordination for their activities in areas of mutual interest. They want to know the latest developments in research and in management; how to avoid waste effort, how to contribute most effectively to Federal activities with which they are also concerned; and they want constructive criticism on new programs they themselves are developing so they may improve them.

The Federal Government must also know how it can effectively supplement the State programs. Both have exactly the same *fish and wildlife* objectives.

The teamwork approach applies particularly to the area of the commercial fisheries which are so important to the economy of our country. This cooperative approach is exemplified by the history of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

What does this overall problem of providing future fish and wildlife mean to you people of the Gulf States?

I am not coming to you posing as an expert in Gulf fisheries, but I have been exposed to the United States' fisheries now for about eight months and there are certain problems which you have which are common to other parts of the United States. Some of these problems are common to all the major fisheries of the United States, and especially so to the more important commercial fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico—namely, shrimp, menhaden, and oysters.

If you will permit me to oversimplify the problems, I would say that your problem in industry here in the Gulf is a problem which is common to all of the fisheries of the world. *First*, you must have a consistent supply of raw material.

Second, you must have a fleet of boats and well-trained fishermen to harvest these resources from the sea and deliver them to your plants in an acceptable condition.

Third, you must produce a product which will sell. It has to look attractive; it has to be of a high quality; and it has to create a demand.

Fourth, you must have markets, and broad markets that encompass a large segment of the population in order to avoid short-term changes in demand.

Given these four features, fisheries prosper. Handicapped in any one of the four, we run into serious problems, some of which have seriously handicapped you in recent years.

Let's review for a minute some of your major fisheries, take a look at their problems, and suggest features which perhaps can be the subject for further discussion at the current meetings of your Commission. The shrimp fishery is the most valuable fishery in the United States. Nothing more need be said about the importance of shrimp or its tremendous value in the Gulf States area. Some 4,000 boats of various sizes ply the inland and coastal waters of the Gulf of Mexico in search of this shellfish. Supply has been relatively constant until this year. Now catches are down about one-third from normal.

Thus, even though we have an ample fleet of vessels—in fact, perchance too large a fleet—despite the fact that the product has never been better, with new shrimp products of good quality and despite the fact that the demand throughout the United States is at an all time high, the shrimp industry is in trouble.

This, then, suggests to us an area where immediate attention is needed—the matter of the abundance of our product to furnish our markets. Federal and State scientists, along with industry, are giving this matter serious study.

I urge you to concentrate your efforts toward expanding the areas of the fishery, studying factors affecting the abundance and availability of shrimp and *exploring the deeper waters of the Gulf in order to find new stocks of shrimp which will be available during times when the normal inshore supply is limited!*

With a better understanding of the factors in the ocean weather—a factor, by the way, which we believe brought about the present decline—and a knowledge of secondary resources which may be more expensive to produce but which may be highly desirable during periods of shortages such as has occurred this year, I believe our problems in this great fishery can be mitigated.

Let's look now, briefly, at the menhaden fishery. Here the resource has continued to produce at an increasingly high rate of about 450,000 tons in 1961. I don't think we are willing now to predict that great changes in the abundance of menhaden are not possible in the Gulf, for this is a short-lived fish and our fishery is dependent upon a relatively few years classes for its success. For the present, however, the supply seems adequate but the product itself could stand further study to improve processing and quality.

Vessels are available with which to harvest the resources but the limiting factor recently has been the market.

A world-wide crisis occurred in the market during 1959 and the early part of 1960 when great new supplies of fish meal became available from Peru, South Africa, Angola, and other parts of the world. This seems to have been overcome for the moment, and the menhaden industry is enjoying a relatively prosperous season. We must watch this market closely, however, and your dis-

(Continued on Page 19)

Highlights of Gulf States

1. Director L. D. Young, Jr., and Chairman E. R. McDonald, at left, discuss Gulf States Fisheries problems with State Representatives Alvin Dyson of Cameron Parish, a member of Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; the Honorable Frank Briggs, Assistant Secretary of the U. S. Department of Interior, and James McConnell, Chief of Oysters, Water Bottoms, and Seafood Division of Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.

2. Seton H. Thompson, Regional Director of Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, talks to the Gulf group during one of the sessions held on October 19.

3. Director Young, who was named Chairman of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission during the conference in New Orleans, is shown with Sidney A. Bourg of Lockport and Representative Dyson. Young, Bourg, and Dyson make up the three-member committee representing Louisiana on the Commission.

4. Dudley Gunn, Director of Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, gives his annual report to what he said was the largest delegation assembled at any Commission conference.

5. At left, Dr. Lyle S. St. Amant, Chief Marine Biologist of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, leads a shrimp discussion with panelists Robert M. Ingle of Florida, Jack C. Mallory of Alabama, William J. Demoran of Mississippi, and Terrance R. Leary of Texas.

6. Chairman E. R. McDonald is shown at the rostrum delivering the welcome address to the delegates attending the conference.

7. At the speakers' table during one of the business sessions, discussion leaders include, left to right, Mr. Bourg; Representative Dyson; David H. Wallace, Director of the Oyster Institute of North America; Mr. McConnell, Secretary Briggs, Chairman McDonald, and Director Young.

8. Delegates to the Conference were treated to a famous Louisiana oyster bar party following the close of the first day session.

FROM OCEAN FLOOR TO YOUR DOOR

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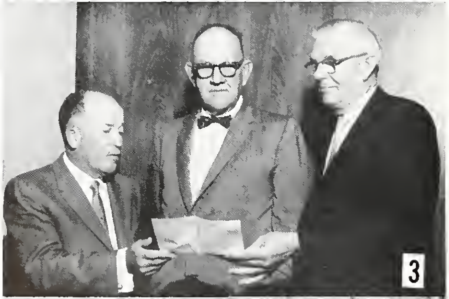

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arine Fisheries Commission

9. One of the highlights of the Conference was a visit by delegates to the Louisiana Wild Life Museum. In this photo, Louisiana Wild Life Instructors, from left to right, include Dick Wall, John Culpepper, Alvin Carson, Sam Murray, Vernon Bennett, Joe Tomme, Vincent Pizzolato, and Richard Walker. They are shown in the Waterfowl Room of the museum.
10. J. Edouard Morgan, center, Curator of the Wild Life Museum, discusses various wild life species with veteran newspaperman Herman Deutsch of New Orleans and charter boat captain Charles Sebastian of Grand Isle.
11. Steve Harmon, shown with folder, Chief of Education and Publicity, Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, explains careers in commercial fishing to Nicholls State College Biology professors as Wild Life Instructor John Culpepper passes out brochures to visiting delegates to museum.
12. The oyster bar party was termed a huge success, and much of the credit goes to Captain Earl Rhodes, left, and Inspector Jack Hood, who pitched in and helped open the oysters for more than one hundred people who attended the party.
13. Oyster Institute Director David Wallace and Louisiana oyster dealer Joe Jurisich watch closely as Representative Dyson explains the Cajun technique of eating the delicious Louisiana oyster.
14. Boat Operator Ben Davies demonstrates that he also is adept at opening the Louisiana oyster.
15. Wild Life and Fisheries Commission Pollution Chief Kenneth Biglane discusses water and pollution problems during one of the Friday sessions.
16. Newly elected officers and members of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission include, from left to right, bottom row, William G. Simpson, Mississippi; Dudley Gunn, Director; Walter O. Sheppard, Florida, Chairman 1960, 1961; L. D. Young, Jr., Louisiana, named Chairman, 1961, 1962; Alvin Dyson, Louisiana; Sidney A. Bourg, Sr., Louisiana. Top row: Will G. Caffey, Jr., Alabama, named Vice-Chairman, 1961, 1962; Max K. Lawrenz, Sr., Alabama; William C. Younger, Alabama; Bruce J. Scott, Florida; Richard H. Cory, Texas; Howard T. Lee, Texas (Proxy for Commissioner H. D. Dodgen).

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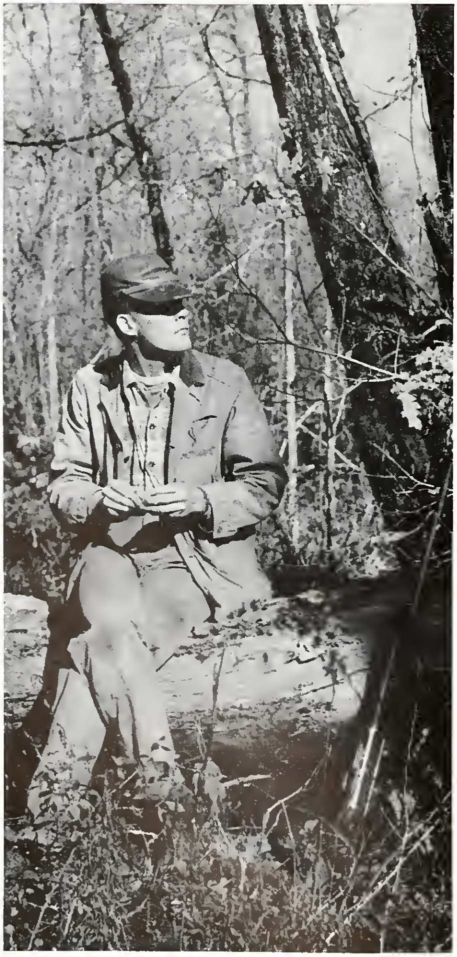
HOW TO HUNT DEER

Grits Gresham



DEER HUNTING BIDS FAIR to be one of Louisiana's leading outdoor sports for years to come. The management program has started and nurtured herds in areas of the state which had been bare of whitetail for years.

As a consequence of the increased deer population and increased hunting opportunities, we have more deer hunters than ever before. We have men, women and children out after venison who know little or nothing about *how* to deer hunt. Only experience will really remedy this, but perhaps the tips in this article will ease the path in bringing a buck to bag for some of the new hunters.

To successfully hunt an animal the hunter should know something of his habits. Deer depend upon their sense of smell more than they do on any other faculty, and this sense of smell is very acute. Their hearing is excellent. Their eyesight is relatively poor on stationary objects, but deer will detect the slightest movement readily. They are swift of flight, but prefer to hide rather than flee from an enemy, and can completely conceal themselves in cover which you'd swear would hardly hide a rabbit.

Memorize these few facts about deer behavior and act accordingly.

HUNTING WITH DOGS

In hunting deer with dogs the hunters are usually placed on "stands," which are merely locations which experience has shown to be routes or crossings regularly used by deer. The first thing a beginner should learn is this: if the hunt boss says to stay on your stand until he picks you up again, STAY THERE! There are quite a few graves filled with people who failed to follow this rule.

Before taking a stand find out from which direction the drive is to be made, and position yourself to cover that direction best. Take a little time to pick out a *comfortable* spot to sit or stand, for a lot of your success will depend upon your moving as little as possible for several hours—perhaps all day. Many hunters take along a small stool to sit on, and lean back against a tree.

After being placed on a stand get quiet and ready as soon as possible. It frequently happens that deer wil be moved toward you by the activity of other hunters taking their stands, even before the dogs are turned loose.

Constant vigilance is the key to much deer hunting success. Be alert whether dogs are running or not—or even if the chase is going away from you. A running pack moves not only the buck or doe they're after, but causes other deer to become active.

If the chase is coming toward you remember that the deer can be far in front of the dogs. Govern your activity accordingly, else you'll probably find—when the dogs pass you by—that your buck spotted you and detoured around your stand.

If you kill a deer in front of another man's dogs, custom calls for the meat to be divided, with the shooter having his choice of either the head or the hide.

STILL HUNTING

The practice of "still hunting"—hunting without dogs—has mushroomed in recent years. Many camps in areas where dogs are permitted have gone to the silent hunt entirely. Still hunts on game management areas have proved to hunters that they can kill deer without dogs, and many have found that they prefer this method.

There are, in general, two kinds of still hunting. In one you slip through the deer country as quietly as possible, preferably upwind. In the other you find an area which deer have been using heavily and take a stand to watch it. Most still hunters use a combination of the two methods—walking for a while, and then sitting or standing. However, most successful deer hunters use the sitting method.

If you're slipping through deer woods move slowly—then go half that speed. Deer detect movement readily, and the faster you move the farther away they'll spot you.

As you're slipping slowly through the woods, stopping frequently for five or ten minutes of rigid attention, LOOK for deer. That may sound facetious, but the fact is that many hunters wander through the woods with their eyes open but they're not seeing.

Look for *pieces* of deer! Look for an ear twitched, a flick of a tail, a leg, or an antler sticking up over a bush. The calendar portrait of a regal buck standing broadside in a clearing is beautiful, but it's one you seldom see in the woods.

When you still hunt from a stand try to pick a spot where a couple of deer trails converge, or an acorn flat where they've been feeding.

Hunting from a tree stand is very effective, since deer don't seem to look for danger from above. You need not be high off the ground, but a 10 to 20 foot advantage often improves your view tremendously. It's against the regulations to *construct* tree stands on *game management areas*, but you *can* just climb a tree and sit on a limb even in these special units.

Hunting from trees is especially effective for bowhunters, since they must get much closer to the game than do gun hunters.

GUNS AND GEAR

Although a few deer clubs still insist on shotguns and buckshot, there has been a tremendous switch to rifles for deer in Louisiana in the past decade. Almost any gun will kill deer under the right conditions, including a .22 rimfire or a .410 shotgun loaded with birdshot. No sportsman who values this fine animal however, would deliberately hunt deer with either of these weapons.

Most deer in this state are killed at less than one hundred yards, so a long-range rifle isn't necessary for average conditions. Nothing less than a .25 caliber should be considered a deer rifle. Good caliber choices for Louisiana conditions include the .243, .244, 250-3000, .257 Roberts, .264 Magnum, .270, .280, .300 Savage, .30-.30, .308, .30-06, .348, and anything bigger you're man enough to handle easily and accurately.

Don't overgun yourself. If you're sensitive to recoil choose one of the lighter deer calibers, for accuracy is more important than energy if you confine your choice to the calibers listed above—or to equivalent calibers.

Choose the type of action you prefer, whether it's a bolt action, pump, autoloading, lever action or single shot, and always keep in mind that the first shot you fire at a deer is the most important one. More important than the choice of caliber or type of action is that the hunter know exactly the limitations of *his* gun in *his* hands. Gun manuals will show what the caliber will do; practice will show what the hunter can do with it.

The average deer hunter is only an average marksman, at best, since he probably doesn't shoot a box of cartridges through his deer rifle in a year's time. That being the case he should take every advantage possible when he gets a

To tie a tag on trophy bucks like this one, hunters should learn the habits of deer and should then act accordingly.

shot—sitting down, if possible, or leaning his gun against a tree.

To check your competency at bustin' a buck try perforating a 12″ square at various ranges, shooting offhand and giving yourself three to five seconds to get the shot off. That 12″ square is the vital area of a buck's boiler room—heart, lungs, and chest cavity, and you can imagine how difficult that is to hit with the deer running.

The plain fact is that most deer are hit outside that key vital area, a fact which should enter into a gun choice. The more potent calibers will anchor a deer even with a marginal hit, so use a gun that will give you the edge within your ability to handle the recoil.

With the swing to rifles has been a corresponding swing to scope sights. This is the most efficient type yet devised, since it puts game and sighting reticule (crosshair, post, or dot) in one plane of sight. No aligning of sights is necessary. You just put the crosshair on the target and touch it off.

A scope sight is fast, contrary to what many people believe, but it is fast and efficient *only* if it is mounted on the rifle to fit the shooter. The stock of the rifle may have to be altered—the comb either whittled down or padded—until the gunner's eye automatically comes into line when he mounts the gun.

Disadvantages of a scope sight are few but real. Rain or snow on the lens will blur your picture, and the scope is not as fast as open sights in extremely heavy cover. A two inch wide section of an old inner tube makes a fine scope cover for bad weather, and it can be flipped free in an instant when game appears.

For Louisiana conditions a 2½ power scope is excellent, and a 4x the maximum that should be used. The variable scopes, in which you can change the power by a twist of a knob, are also good.

Next in efficiency to the scope is the hunting peep sight with a large aperture, and low on the totem pole is the open sight. In cases of very short range in heavy cover, with the deer apt to be running, the advantages of fast gun pointing of the open sight may well outweigh the advantages of a scope or peep. The terrain you hunt and the type of hunting you do should determine your choice of sighting equipment.

Shotguns loaded with buckshot are good deer guns, *but with certain limitations*. The main one is that this is a very short range combination, with a 40 or 50 yard shot being a long one. The other is that your gun must properly pattern the size and brand of buckshot you're using.

I can immediately hear some irate deer hunter yell that his "Betsy" will regularly lay'em down at 75 yards or more. I can only invite him to fire away at the 12″ square at that distance and see how many buckshot he puts into it.

Pellets outside that chest cavity area may, it's true, break a neck, shatter the brain, or crack the spine. They may also, it's equally true, break a leg, fracture a jaw, or puncture the gut.

At the 10 to 30 yard range at which many Louisiana deer are taken, buckshot are poison. How much beyond that you can rely on the combination depends upon your gun and load, and only practice on a paper target will tell you the story. Some guns will pattern one size buckshot far better than they will other sizes, and some brands better than others.

A shotgun with rifled slugs is a real deer killer out to a hundred yards. If you're using these, practice to see where your guns throw them. Add sights to your shotgun for most accuracy with the slugs.

Whatever your weapon, keep in mind that many, many deer don't go down at the shot, even when fatally hit. Many, in fact, will give no indication at all that they have been hit, and a lot of cripples are lost because some hunters don't realize this.

Whenever you shoot at a deer and have him keep going, sit still for at least 30 minutes, then

(Continued on Page 18)

The deer hound—be it beagle, redbone (like this one), bluetick, Walker, black & tan, or cur—is an integral part of the Louisiana deer hunting picture, but many hunters have turned to still hunting in recent years.

REPORT on commission action

SEPTEMBER 25-26 MEETING

THE COMMISSION CANCELLED a contract with W. T. Burton, contractor, for the removal of shells from Prien Lake and Indian Bayou near Lake Charles.

The action was taken when it was reported by Burton that the two areas were not as productive as had been hoped.

Burton received the contract in January over protests by residents of the area. Objection was based on the contention that dredging for shells would muddy the waters used as a recreational area.

James N. McConnell, chief of the Oysters, Water Bottoms and Seafoods division, also reported that there appears to be a bumper crop of sack oysters and a reduction of about 50 per cent in steam oysters. The latter oysters are used for canning, while the former are types served on the half shell.

In his memorandum to L. D. Young, Jr., director of the commission, McConnell said:

"Now that the seed oyster season has been in operation for the last three weeks, I wish to acquaint the Commission with some of the facts which were not available when the season opened.

"First I would like to state that from the present observations the steam oyster pack in Louisiana and Mississippi will drop at least fifty per cent this season. This lack of seed is primarily due to the fact that because of the large amount of fresh water in our coastal marshes the seed that caught grew very little and will not be available for this season's pack. We will, however, have a better grade of counter oysters and also a better grade of raw shop oysters on the market. The supply will be larger than last year with a very heavy demand on this class of Louisiana oysters due to the shortage of oysters in the East, and because of the storm damage to oysters in Texas and the fresh water losses in the Mobile Bay area.

"There seems to be some evidence of small white shrimp appearing in the coastal areas at this time. In fact Dr. Lyle St. Amant, our chief biologist has advised me that there are still some post-larval white shrimp showing up in his plankton samples. Whether or not these small shrimp are in sufficient quantities to make much difference in the final analysis is problematical at this time." McConnell reported.

Also a motion was introduced by Ray Whatley, vice-chairman of the commission, concerning the pioneering of deep-water fishing in the Gulf of Mexico below New Orleans. Whatley is also a member of the board of directors of the New Orleans Big Game Fishing Club.

Whatley observed that several years ago Harley Howcott, of New Orleans, started urging a Grand Isle charter captain to go after the billfish and other game fish that experimental work proved were in the Gulf at our very doorsteps. The captain, Robert Mitcheltree, shifted his operations to South Pass and a new area of big game fishing was opened, Whatley said.

"Pioneering of any sort calls for determination and that's what Captain Bob had, he cracked a fishing frontier, backed up by a growing number of deep water fishermen who wanted to experience the thrill of fighting big fish. In years to come, more and more anglers will be after the big ones", Whatley observed.

The Commission also adopted a resolution for a ten per cent payment to contractors for fencing, the construction of duck pens, and paving completed successfully at the Rockefeller Game Refuge.

OCTOBER 23-24 MEETING

The Commission closed waters of East and West Karaco bays and Three-Mile bay in St. Bernard parish to dredging by oystermen.

An order to close came during the meeting at which the commission heard reports of big catches of young oysters and very few large oysters in the three bordering waterways.

In related action the commission ordered immediate enforcement of laws against shucking of oysters on boats after taking them from water bottoms.

The action was prompted by appearance of two oystermen at the meeting, Eunice Vinet of Galliano, Louisiana, and August Pitre of Cut Off, Louisiana.

They charged that oystermen from out-of-state, mainly Mississippi, were coming into Louisiana waters and were violating state laws of shucking small oysters aboard their boats in the Drum bay area in St. Bernard.

They also reported catching many small and tender oysters, and they requested closure of waterways to prevent additional killing of oysters until they grow larger.

James W. McConnell, chief of the water bottoms and seafood division, explained there has been a "tremendous demand" for oysters in view of the poor shrimp season.

McConnell said boats are checked only at the Grand Pass point of entry and that it is easy for oystermen to conceal shucked oysters by packing them in ice in the center of craft or in ice-packed containers. He added that this was the first notice the commission had received concerning alleged violations.

In other action the commission approved a request for fur trapping in the Russell Sage game management area in accordance with rules and regulations of other game refuge areas.

John D. Newsom, chief of the fish and game division, said the request was primarily for mink, for which the season is November 15-January 10. The season for other fur-bearers begins November 15 and continues through February 15.

A five-day bear hunting season, December 26-30 inclusive, was approved for the Chicago Mill area in East Carroll parish with the stipulation that no dogs will be allowed and that permits will be required.

The commission passed a resolution advising the U. S. Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg district, that comprehensive plans should be designed to preserve and safeguard high qualities of Bayou Bartholomew in North Louisiana.

Newsom explained that a flood control plan including clearing, snagging and bank stabilization is intended for the bayou, which flows in Arkansas and Louisiana.

A report by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife service said the flood control plans would provide "a marked change in wildlife species" in the area because the plan calls for clearing 89,500 acres of land, Newsom said.

Although the work will be done in Arkansas, Louisiana officials are interested because the bayou here will evidence a reduction in fish and water quality and quantity for industry, Newsom said.

The resolution said that "various flood control measures normally applied to streams of this character, such as Bayou Lafourche in Northeast Louisiana, have resulted in barren ditchlike courses with erratic flooding of adjacent areas followed by a virtual dewatering of the bayou which eliminates year around use of the area by fish and wildlife and precludes assurance of suitable volumes and quality of water . . ."

The commission also took under further study an Orleans Levee board offer to make available a 33,000-acre tract of land in the Bohemia spillway for a wildlife management area.

Newsom said the area didn't offer too much opportunity for development as far as the commission was concerned, but that it would provide good hunting for waterfowl and deer. ✠

HOW TO HUNT DEER

(Continued from Page 16)

check the area very closely for signs of blood. Whether you find any or not try to follow his tracks for a few hundred yards, or make a few half circle swings in that direction. Your prize may be lying dead just out of sight. Many mortally wounded deer will travel 200 to 300 yards without shedding over a drop or two of blood.

"Cutting his throat" is unnecessary in most cases. Hit by a modern bullet a deer is well bled by the time the hunter gets to it. If you must stick him, cut his jugular vein at the lowest point on the throat, very near the chest. Cutting the throat higher up ruins the head for a mount, to the dismay of taxidermists and the proud hunter.

Deer should be field dressed as soon as possible after being killed, and this takes care of any "bleeding out" that might be necessary. Even a delay of an hour or two in this field dressing, in hot weather, can affect the quality of the venison.

Clothes with a soft weave, such as wool or flannel, are best for slipping through deer woods, making far less noise than does khaki, poplin, or the traditional hunting pants. This may or may not be important, depending upon where and how you hunt. Miscellaneous items the deer hunter might consider carrying with him include: knife, matches, compass, map of the area, snakebite kit, binoculars, and a length of stout cord.

He should also be equipped at all times with a determination to know *exactly* what he's shooting at before he pulls the trigger. Afterwards is too late. ✠

THE AMAZING OYSTER

There is no doubt about it; oysters are really remarkable. They grow in water, and not in the fields, yet oyster farming is a definite and involved process. They cannot swim about in search of food, yet oysters feed themselves and grow large and fat. They cannot run away from their natural enemies, yet can protect themselves amazingly well. They are at once commonplace and mysterious, simple and tricky. There are hundreds of scientists and thousands of men who spend their lives working on oysters. From the scientists to the Louisiana oyster fishermen who plant their beds, the past hundred years of oyster cultivation has had a continuous history of encouragements and discouragements, of advancement and setback. ✠

FISH AND WILDLIFE TEAMWORK

(Continued from Page 11)

cussions of the menhaden industry should well include further studies of the products and markets.

For these are now the weak links in this fishery.

In discussing areas of immediate concern, one must not overlook the long haul. In all of these resources, you must consider not only the problems of today but you must look further into all factors—from the resource itself to the consumer—in order to insure future stability in the menhaden fishery.

The third great commercial fishery in the Gulf of Mexico is the oyster fishery.

And here the yield has been going down or remaining fixed at about 12.5 millions of pounds for many years. Here is a case where the weak link is the resource itself and the inshore environment upon which the oyster depends.

The product is excellent and the market has perhaps never been better.

With the general decline in production from other east coast oyster-bearing areas, a careful study of the oyster environment and more intensive culture of this shellfish could undoubtedly improve the present condition of the oyster fishery in the Gulf.

This all leads to one inescapable conclusion. The Gulf fisheries are absolutely dependent upon an adequate inshore environment. Man-made and natural changes in recent years are leading to what appear on the surface to be serious adverse changes in the estuaries and brackish water coastal areas throughout the entire Gulf. Much has been said at these meetings concerning the need for estuarine studies, and good programs are under way, particularly for the Mississippi Gulf Outlet. A review of these programs and continued emphasis on them is essential.

I urge you to examine carefully the State and Federal programs relating to all of these fisheries, and to focus attention on the factors which are affecting the fisheries now, while at the same time bringing about a balance to the programs which will not neglect the long-range objectives.

I am confident that our two organizations, with continued help of your Congressional delegations, particularly Representative Frank Boykin of Mobile, the Chairman of the House Fish and Wildlife Subcommittee, can successfully meet this challenge.

I know that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission is willing to do its share.

Last spring, your Chairman, Walter Shepard, and a number of your associates called on me in Washington to urge the appropriation of funds with which to carry on an adequate shrimp research program. Funds for this purpose were first sought by the Commission as long ago as 1954.

You were not satisfied that we were adding to our knowledge of shrimp as rapidly as we should. And quite properly so.

You appealed the case to your Congressional representatives who gave you an attentive ear and came away, not with the $500,000 you sought, but with $175,000—enough to definitely "put the show on the road."

You made it clear to Congress that this resource should be fully utilized and at the same time fully protected for future generations; and that to do this we must know much more about shrimp than we now know!

The thoughtful yet vigorous way in which you approached this problem, and the far better-than-average success you achieved, made me curious, so I looked back over the record to see what other accomplishments stemmed from the actions of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. I was Impressed.

Frankly, I saw something more than an organization active in behalf of its own area. I saw the basis for a conservation program which is destined to reach worldwide proportions in a few years. I saw a start on the biological phases of an oceanographic program which must also reach worldwide proportions if we are to make the sea yield food to its full potential.

I saw the basis of a management program which will some day in the not too distant future begin to take on the shape and proportions necessary to make the seas yield twice the amount of protein yielded by the land.

In other words, I saw more clearly what President Kennedy meant in his stirring words about the use and perpetuation of our natural resources.

I saw more clearly the opportunity the Department of the Interior under Secretary Udall has in its ambitious efforts to effect true consideration on land and sea; and I saw more clearly what the world's great fishery scientists assembled at the recent Fish-n-Nutrition Conference meant when they said that the potential of the sea rested squarely in the hand of man to develop or destroy.

You are demonstrating how to develop.

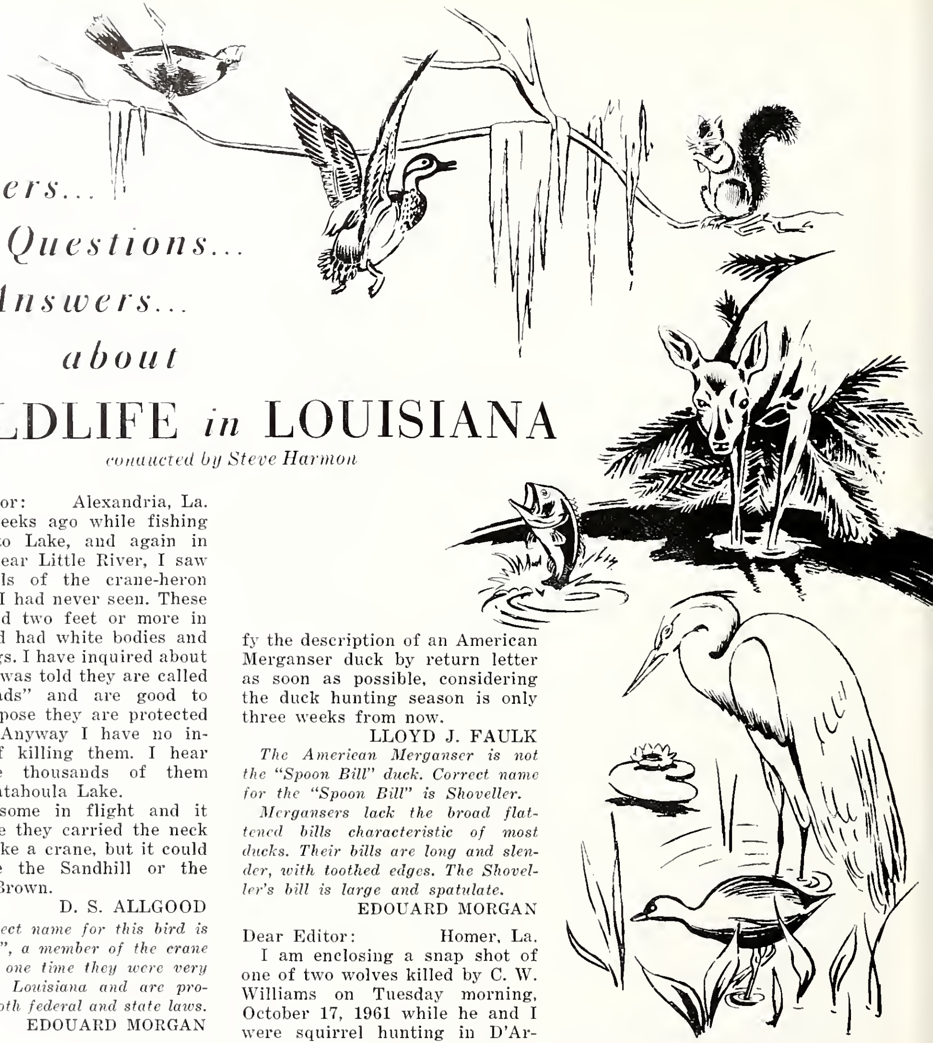
You, who have at your doorstep, so many of the resources—biological and environmental—and so many of the problems—silting, spoilage, channeling, dyking, all the frailties of man and nature—you, who have the good and the bad, the best and the worst within your sphere, have an opportunity to serve not only yourselves but to help point the way to others. In my brief study of your problems, your efforts and your successes indicate to me that you are fully aware of your opportunity and your responsibility.

I am a newcomer in this business but I think I know a little about the conservation of natural resources on land.

In the Gulf of Mexico, it seems to me, man has a distinct water area which can serve as a laboratory and a testing ground for programs which will have world importance. And your organization has a running start in this field and, if I may judge the future from the past, you are going to stay out in front. ✠

Letters... Questions... Answers... about WILDLIFE *in* LOUISIANA

conducted by Steve Harmon



Dear Editor: Alexandria, La.

Some weeks ago while fishing near Larto Lake, and again in Kittling near Little River, I saw some fowls of the crane-heron type that I had never seen. These birds stood two feet or more in height and had white bodies and black wings. I have inquired about them and was told they are called "Gourdheads" and are good to eat. I suppose they are protected by laws. Anyway I have no intention of killing them. I hear there are thousands of them around Catahoula Lake.

I saw some in flight and it looked like they carried the neck straight like a crane, but it could hardly be the Sandhill or the Mexican Brown.

D. S. ALLGOOD

The correct name for this bird is "Wood ibis", a member of the crane family. At one time they were very common in Louisiana and are protected by both federal and state laws.

EDOUARD MORGAN

Dear Editor: Abbeville, La.

Concerning **1961-62 Migratory Regulations (Ducks):**

Under this regulation it is mentioned that in addition to the regular daily bag limit of three ducks, etc., a daily bag limit of five American Mergansers can also be included.

Considering the above correct, I am inquiring as to a description of an American Merganser duck. As the dictionary describes it, I am inclined to believe they are what we commonly refer to as a "Spoon Bill" duck and there are some in Southwest Louisiana.

If what I have mentioned is incorrect, please notify me and clarify the description of an American Merganser duck by return letter as soon as possible, considering the duck hunting season is only three weeks from now.

LLOYD J. FAULK

The American Merganser is not the "Spoon Bill" duck. Correct name for the "Spoon Bill" is Shoveller.

Mergansers lack the broad flattened bills characteristic of most ducks. Their bills are long and slender, with toothed edges. The Shoveller's bill is large and spatulate.

EDOUARD MORGAN

Dear Editor: Homer, La.

I am enclosing a snap shot of one of two wolves killed by C. W. Williams on Tuesday morning, October 17, 1961 while he and I were squirrel hunting in D'Arbonne bottom some three miles east of Homer. Williams is on the left of the picture and I am on the right. This animal which is the larger of the two killed by Williams weighed about 35 or 40 lbs. This is a male and appeared to be about 1½ to 2 years old. The other one was a female and had nursed at least one litter of pups. The one shown here was in excellent condition while the female was a little thinner. These animals were traveling together about ten yards apart. The weather here is extremely dry so Williams could hear them coming to him through the woods.

As you know Homer is in the extreme northern part of Louisiana, and I do not believe that anyone realized that we had any of these animals this far north in the state. That is why I am sending this to you.

May I also take this opportunity to say that I enjoy reading the LOUISIANA CONSERVATIONIST very much and keep up the good work.

L. C. DAVIDSON

Dear Editor: Baton Rouge, La.

There has been quite a confusion between the Fox Hunters and the Turkey Hunters. The Fox Hunters have all year in which to hunt fox and the Turkey Hunters have only seven (7) days to hunt turkey. What I am trying to say is that it seems to me someone has their sportsmanship crossed up. Somehow, when the turkey season opens you can find truck after truck load of fox dogs at 2:00 a.m., ready to let go just before daybreak and they start running in every direction; therefore, the turkey hunters who have waited all the year to have a little sport fail to have anything but disappointment.

Would someone please do something to remedy this confusion before it gets from bad to worse? See if there isn't some way to get the Fox Hunters to keep their dogs out of the woods these seven days, as we all love sports of some kind. Let's cooperate together and be sports together.

I would appreciate hearing from some other sportsmen their viewpoint, either he be a Turkey Hunter or Fox Hunter.

BOB RUSHING

Dear Editor: Donaldsonville, La.

Enclosed is a picture of some friends of mine returning from a successful fishing trip several months ago. They are Mr. Mike Bellina, on the left, a grocery store operator, center, is the paddler, and to the right is Mr. Richard Coreill, deputy sheriff. These bass were caught in the Atchafalaya spillway, all averaging 3½ pounds each. Both fishermen are members of our local Ascension Parish Sportsmen League.

KELLY FALCON

Dear Editor: Florence, Miss.

On the 22nd day of August I, along with several friends, left Jackson, Miss. on the Pearl River to the coast. We reached Bogalusa, La. on the evening of the 25th.

Just below Bogalusa we came to the "canal" but instead of going through the canal and the locks we carried our boats around the low head dam at the beginning of the canal and continued down the river, in preference to the canal. Later in the morning we met a game warden of Miss. and one from La. who were working together. They were both most helpful in telling us directions.

Any information about our strange route from just below Bogalusa to Pearl River, La. would be greatly appreciated.

Just to let you know the trip took five and a half days and is approximately 300 miles by the river.

Any information will be greatly appreciated.

LESTER SPELL, JR.

From left John McCormick, Jamie Butler, Henry Jones, Bob Hederman and Lester Spell.

You will find general information showing the various channels, bayous and sloughs through the lower Pearl River swamp on Louisiana Department of Highway's Traffic and Planning Section's maps for Washington and St. Tammany Parishes, available from the La. Dept. of Highways, Baton Rouge, La. More specific information is available on quadrangle sheets available from most map companies or the U.S. Geological survey, Washington 25, D.C.

T. B. Ford
Asst. Chief Fish and Game Division

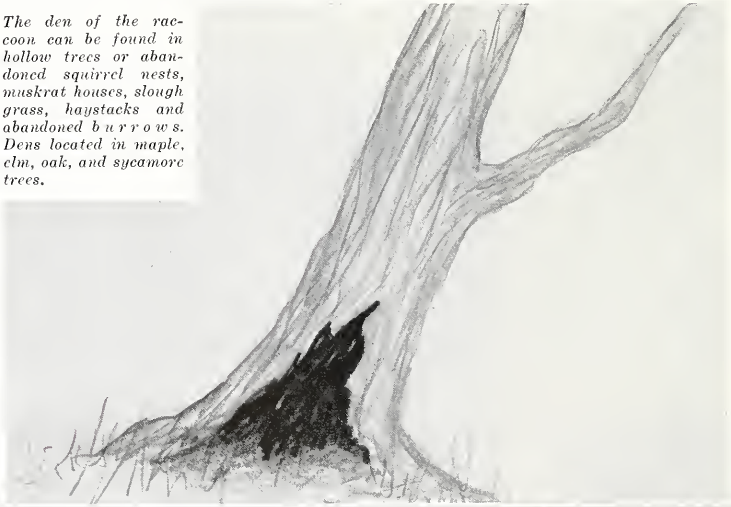
Last December the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission purchased the first tract of land in the state to be used exclusively for outdoor recreation purposes. The tract of land was in the famous Lafourche swamp near Monroe. Robert Ewing, III, left, and John Elmendorff, both of Monroe, hunted the Lafourche swamp on the opening day of the squirrel season on October 7. A third hunter was in the party. The 18 squirrels shown above came out of the area.

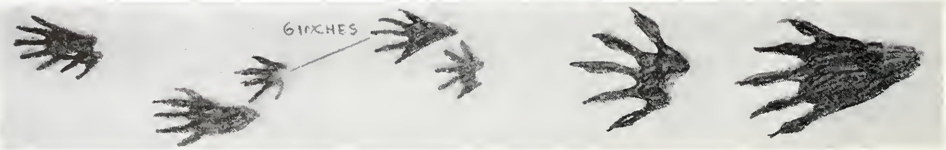
Louisiana Wildlife

RACCOON *Procyon Lotor*

An abundant inhabitant of all terrains, timbered and swampy, marshy, etc., found throughout the state. Size ranges from 26-38 inches. Voice—chuckling sounds, snarls, and growl. Most active at night. Food consists of plant and animal matter—wild fruits (persimmons, oranges, black berries, acorns, pecans, crayfish, clams, fish, insects, frogs, snails, etc.)

The den of the raccoon can be found in hollow trees or abandoned squirrel nests, muskrat houses, slough grass, haystacks and abandoned burrows. Dens located in maple, elm, oak, and sycamore trees.





WALKING FRONT HIND

The hind foot is about 4 to 7 inches in length

Scrapbook

Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr.

EDITORIAL

(Continued from Page 1)

where in the Southwest. There were also several magnificent deer heads, mounted quail and a beautiful mounted wild turkey. There were other signs of his closeness to hunting and fishing in evidence. Turkey feet and beards hanging about as ornaments attested his ability to hunt. Mounted bass from Florida, along with the big black bear skin, showed that he roamed a bit in his hunting and fishing. There was also a nice sailfish mounted on the wall over the fireplace in his room.

"So for Bill it had to be the real thing. Pitching the tent was hastened, wood for an open fire was hurried, and darkness came faster than it seems to come in the city. Bill started the fire, using dry leaves and twigs and then finger-thin branches. It wasn't long before he had a good fire started. We had pork and beans which tasted better with a few sprinklings of ashes shifted into the simmering beans by the poking of the fire.

"Naturally the boy dug down into the sack of candy bars that were bought enroute, and naturally there was a coffee pot bedded into hot fire-edge ashes. About an hour after dark, the gasoline lantern was brought out to supplement the firelight and aid in gathering a supply of wood to keep the fire going. The woods were alive with all sorts of sounds and stirrings, but the only visitor was George Connell who steered a shifting jeep over the uneven field and into the wooded area bordering a tiny, sandy creek where we were camped. Squatting around the fire, we sipped coffee and talked. Connell looked over the camp. The tent was a sort of over-sized pup tent with a canvas bottom and a snap-type screen to keep insects out. It was a two-man job and there was a Hudson Bay blanket folded on one side and a colorful, thick wool blanket picked up in Guatemala a few years ago folded on the other side.

"Perhaps a few folks will say that this is the hard way to do things. After his second cup of coffee, Connell looked over at me. With bright and knowing eyes he made a single remark.

"He's ready," he said, looking over at the boy chopping more wood. That's all he said but it conveyed the message. We lingered a bit longer over the coffee and then Connell said good-night and climbed back into the jeep. We listened to it chugging with certain power over the rough spots and out of the woods. Then it was quiet around the camp except for the hooting of owls and the popping of burning wood.

"Most of the time, the nights are short and the daybreak comes quickly. In this case, morning came slowly. We were up shortly after midnight because the fire had burned down to coals. The boy wanted to rebuild it. Not for warmth; but because a campfire is friendly. So we did. With dancing flames just a few yards from the screened front of the tent, it wasn't hard to get back to sleep.

"Dawn found us up and ready. A quick pot of coffee, breakfast for the boy, and we were off to hunt. There were coon tracks in the moist sandy creek. You could also see the tiny prints of squirrels that showed where they had come for water.

"There were plenty of squirrels barking but the boy chattered about as much as the squirrels. I guess you can say that scores of squirrels saw us long before we could reach them. But the old law of averages helped us and the boy got in some shots and bagged his first game.

"Everything was perfect—weather, place and time. As we said earlier, you can't fully express some things on paper. You have to live them. In days to come, the memory of the boy's face will still be as sharp as it was last weekend. Guess you might say that we were living about as high on the hog as you can get." ✠

AQUATIC VEGETATION

(Continued from Page 8)

lighter units and these, coupled with powered skiffs, proved to be very efficient in the areas of interest where the crews are often faced with operating in shallow water and in areas of restricted mobility because of dense tree and brush growth.

The general method of attack presently in use is to spray the plants with a water soluble formulation of 2,4-D with a surface active material added to enhance the activity of the chemical. This mixture is sprayed on the hyacinths to wet the plants thoroughly. A recheck of the sprayed area is made in approximately six weeks after the first spraying to treat any plants that might have been missed in the original application.

A further check is made of the treated area in approximately six months to catch any plants which might have drifted in or those which had germinated from seed in the interim period. This operation constituted the primary phase of an operation, and it is continued until an entire lake or water area has been treated.

After the primary phase has been completed for a given area, the area is put into a maintenance condition during which periodic inspections are made to determine its condition and to treat hyacinths which have sprouted from seed or have been brought into the area. *This is a continuous operation in areas which have been included in the major operations of the program.* If an area is left unguarded for even one growing season, it is possible for the hyacinth infestation to reach major proportions and the additional seed production for that time would extend the time during which major effort would again have to be applied to the reinfested area.

Spraying of water hyacinths is an all year operation, weather permitting. The early spring applications from late February until first seed set are perhaps the most effective since the chemical is reasonably active at this time and the plant is prevented from setting seed. By far the most striking applications are made during the hot summer months. The effects of spraying done during this period are evident within a few hours after the application is made, here the characteristic twisting and bending of the plants are easily seen, and the plants turn brown and are dead within a few days. Applications in the late fall and winter are not nearly so striking since, at this time, the chemical is very slow in acting. However, the plants are killed even in the dead of winter if the 2,4-D is correctly applied, and those plants will not be around to produce seed the following spring.

During the past four years approximately 80,000 acres of water hyacinth, alligator weed, and other aquatic weeds have been treated by field crews of the Aquatic Vegetation Control Section. Of this approximately 35,000 acres have been in new treatment areas and the remaining 45,000 acres have been in respray or maintenance operations.

In the 1957 report, Pete Dutton indicated, "before many more moons have shown, we hope to have Lake Bistineau and Lake Wallace under hyacinth control."[1] As of this time Pete and his field crews have had these, and some other lakes under control for several moons. Maintenance patrols continue on Cane River and Old River in Natchitoches Parish. Black-Clear-Saline Lakes are in the maintenance phase, as are the major waters in Ouachita Parish in and around Monroe. Although much remains to be done in the Spring Bayou complex near Marksville, the hyacinth has been removed from many acres and this water restored as far as these plants are concerned; however, this particular area, primarily because of stabilization, has become badly infested with submergent aquatics and some of the water regained from the hyacinth has been lost to these plants. Also in this general area, operations have been extended to take in waters in and around the Hamburg Loop area of Bayou des Glaises and several hundred acres there are now in the maintenance phase.

The waters in the Florida Parishes are all under maintenance patrol as far as water hyacinth is concerned, although the alligator weed in much of this area is still under primary attack.

In the Atchafalaya basin, and particularly in the eastern section of the middle basin, there were some set-backs experienced in the field control program in late 1959 and early 1960. These came as the result of administrative and field operational adjustments necessary to meet the State's commitments to the combined Federal-State Aquatic Control Program. And although these changes did result in almost complete stoppage of primary effort and a severe curtailment in maintenance effort in the areas of Ramah Pits, King's Ditch, Patty-U-Bend, and the Grand River Flats, the end results will more than offset the temporary loss of control in certain of the sport fishing spots in these areas.

The addition of high volume, line mix equipment, designed expressly for areas such as these having two to three times the output capability of the lower volume tank mix units, has already gone far toward erasing any deficit in the overall operation schedule here. Additionally, due to the expansion of primary effort in the southern parts of the state, partly as a result of the shift to maintenance phases in the north, more crew effort is now available for assignment to the Atchafalaya Basin in general, and to this prime fishing water in particular.

In the western areas of the Atchafalaya Basin, the crew effort out of Henderson Point continues to be effective and is gradually expanding its area under maintenance patrol. Additional crew effort has been established in Lake Martin and Spanish Lake, some of which may be used to reinforce the total effort in this western area should the need arise.

The alligator weed spraying, as required by the terms of the cooperative Federal-State program, has served to check the growth of this plant and lessen its severity in the major areas in infestation. These include Lake Bistineau, Bayous DeSiard and Bartholomew Cut-off, the streams in the Florida Parishes and several lakes in the coastal area such as Lake Martin and Spanish Lake.

An excellent control of water lotus has been obtained in Lake St. Joseph and effective control of this plant has been established in several other lakes, among these are False River and Cornery Lakes. The control of this plant requires a more exacting spray schedule than the water hyacinth, the best control being obtained late in the summer after the plants are in full bloom; and further, a shift in surfactant from that normally used to spray hyacinths is required for best results on the water lotus.

All in all, the water hyacinth control phases of the program are progressing most satisfactorily, the work is generally on, or ahead of schedule, and several plants in addition to the hyacinth are also being controlled or contained at this time.

The next major effort will be directed toward the control of the submergent plants, the "mosses" which, in some cases at least, seem to come in behind the removal of troublesome surface vegetation. More often, these plants were present at the same time as the hyacinth and others but were less troublesome and so less noticed than the so called "purple menace" and its cousins.

A review of these submergent weeds, their identities and extent, and the research effort toward their control will follow in a later issue of THE CONSERVATIONIST as Part II of this progress report. ✠

THE DELICIOUS OYSTER

The Louisiana oyster—succulent, delicious, with a world wide reputation for superiority, has been enormously improved by scientific methods of cultivation. Its importance as food has gone on increasing by virtue of the fact that it embodies all the elements that constitute a wholly nutritious and satisfying food. ✠

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[1] Pete Dutton, 1957. Water hyacinth control. Louisiana Conservationist. 9(2):16-18.

The Bird of the month

Charles Shaw

EASTERN BLUEBIRD

Sialia sialis

The Eastern Bluebird with its blue upper parts and reddish breast is one of the most colorful members of the true thrush family. It shows more family resemblance in the young birds which have the typical thrush spotting on the breast. Structurally they resemble the other members of the family, and of course at least one other well known member, the robin, has a similar reddish breast. Another difference is choice of habitat. While most thrushes are creatures of the deep woods, bluebirds may be seen sitting on fences or telephone wires in open country, and may even nest in holes in the fence posts or telephone poles. This habit of nesting in cavities makes the bluebird a natural user of man-made bird houses.

While we often think of it as a sign of spring, probably propaganda absorbed from nature writers from further north, the truth is that the Eastern Bluebird is with us all the year and may even be more abundant in the winter when its numbers are augmented with birds migrating from the colder areas. Primarily insectiverous, the species cannot well survive severe winters which preclude the availability of the insects which it needs. This cheerful and colorful bird is of course quite beneficial, as are the other members of this group, and certainly should be protected and encouraged to stay around.

In common with most cavity-nesting birds, the eggs are not strongly marked, being a pale blue or even fading out to almost white in color. Four to six eggs comprise a clutch and two broods per season may be raised.

There has been some concern among ornithologists as to whether or not the Bluebird population is decreasing to a marked extent and if so, what is the cause of the decline. The possibility that the wide-spread use of chemicals for insect control adversely affects insect eating birds is a logical assumption to make and research into this field is being stepped up.

In closing we might note that Dr. George H. Lowery, Jr., in his book LOUISIANA BIRDS comes out with the startling statement that the Bluebird is not really blue, after all, but brown. It seems that while some pigments such as red and yellow occur in feathers, blue does not, and the blue appearance of the bluebird is due to the refraction of the light caused by the physical structure of the feather itself rather than blue pigment.

<h1>Black Bear Cubs Playing On A Log In Louisiana Forest</h1>

Stage A Comeback

The Louisiana Black Bear, on the closed season list since 1945, has staged a comeback in Louisiana and built up in population to a huntable number. As a result, there will be a five day hunting season on bear extending from December 26 - 30. Hunting will be allowed, without dogs, in East Carroll and Madison Parishes only. That part of the Chicago Mill area lying in East Carroll Parish will also be open to bear hunting. The bag limit is one bear and the killing of cubs is prohibited.